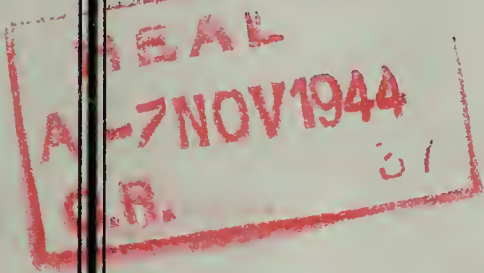


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Wilmslow Urban District
Council.

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1943.

WILMSLOW.

13th October, 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the Wilmslow
Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. EVANS AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present herewith my Annual Report for the year 1943, together with that of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The report is again of an interim character, vital statistic rates for the five years 1939 - 1944 are given, though the figures from which these are calculated are withheld as requested by the Ministry of Health. The variation in these rates are not statistically significant, but comparing them with those of the country as a whole the trend is seen to be the same. The birth rate has been consistently lower than that for England and Wales ; the death rate and infantile mortality taken over the period are also lower ; the Maternal Mortality over the whole period is that of the whole country ; the deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis have remained constant.

Matters dealt with in more detail in the report are :—

- (1) The opening of a new Infant Welfare Centre.
- (2) Water Supply.
- (3) Milk Supply.
- (4) A new Table of Diphtheria Immunisation.
- (5) Provision of Insulin.

The presenting of the report enables me to acknowledge the help given by the Senior Sanitary Inspector and his Staff, who have worked hard at both Public Health and Civil Defence duties. My thanks are also due to the Clerk for his help and co-operation. Finally I would express my appreciation of the encouragement given me by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Evans and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

DAVID G. ANDERSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1943

Staff :

Medical Officer of Health :

D. G. ANDERSON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

G. H. LANCASTER, CERT. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

L. N. BRUNSKILL, CERT. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Both Sanitary Inspectors hold the special diploma of the Royal Sanitary Institute for the inspection of meat and other foods.

Clerical :

Medical Officer's Office : Miss E. M. Wood (a)

Sanitary Inspector's Office : Mrs. E. Palmer (b)

(a) Temporary for Miss N. King, serving in
H.M. Forces,

(b) Temporary for Miss M. Fletcher, serving
in H.M. Forces.

Medical Officer's Office :

Cheadle House, Cheadle, Cheshire.

(Tel.: GATley 3201).

Sanitary Inspector's Office :

Green Hall, Wilmslow.

(Tel.: Wilmslow 2275).

Duties of Public Health Staff :—

The Medical Officer of Health is restricted from private practice and the appointment is a joint one for this district and the Urban Districts of Cheadle and Gatley, and Alderley Edge. He is clinical medical officer to the child welfare centres by arrangement with the Cheshire County Council.

Both Sanitary Inspectors are full-time officials.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector is responsible for House Refuse Removal and Disposal, including salvage, and is appointed Inspector under the Petroleum Acts. (During 1944 he has also been appointed Rodent Officer.)

Social Conditions of the District :—

The practical abolition of unemployment (total and part-time) has led to an improvement in the child health. (This is a subjective statement from personal observation at the welfare centres and not based on any actual figures.)

SECTION A : EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1939-1943 INCLUSIVE.

Live Births :	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Birth rate per 1,000 population :					
Wilmslow	12.5	11.5	12.6	14.0	14.5
England and Wales ..	15.0	14.6	14.2	15.8	16.5
Illegitimate births per 1,000 live births :					
Wilmslow	26.9	42.6	59.1	36.6	50.2

Still-Births :—

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births :—

Wilmslow	65.5	55.3	28.7	18.0	22.3
Rate per 1,000 population :—					
Wilmslow	0.87	0.67	0.37	0.26	0.33
England and Wales ..	0.59	0.55	0.51	0.54	0.51

Deaths :—

Death rate per 1,000 population

Wilmslow	11.3 _c	10.1 _c	10.85	12.4	10.0
England and Wales ..	12.1	14.3	12.9	11.6	12.1

_c standardised.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

No. 29—Puerperal sepsis :—	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Rate per 1,000 total births :					
Wilmslow	0	0	0	0	0
England and Wales ..	0.74	0.52	0.48	0.42	0.39

No. 30—Other puerperal causes :—

Rate :—					
Wilmslow	10.0	0	0	0	0
England and Wales ..	2.08	1.64	1.75	1.59	1.45
Total—Rate :—					
Wilmslow	10.0	0	0	0	0
England and Wales ..	2.82	2.16	2.23	2.01	1.84

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
All Infants per 1,000 live births :—					
Wilmslow	22	16	34	82	18
England and Wales ..	50	55	59	49	49
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births :—					
Wilmslow	22	11	36	66	19
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births :—					
Wilmslow	0	125	0	500	0

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	27	30	26	26	16
„ Measles (all ages)	0	0	0	0	0
„ Whooping Cough (all ages) ..	0	0	0	0	0
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0	1	1	2	0
„ Influenza (all ages)	2	4	6	1	2
„ Pneumonia (all ages)	4	2	3	6	6
„ Tuberculosis, Pulmonary (all ages)	3	6	4	4	3

SECTION B : GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA :—

(a) **Staff :** See beginning of report.

(b) **Laboratory Facilities :—**

Specimens may be sent to either the University of Manchester Public Health Laboratory or the Stockport Infirmary Pathological Department.

Exceptions are :—

(a) **Virulence Tests.** These are only carried out at Manchester.

- (b) Sputum Tests. These are carried out at the County Council Laboratory, Chester.
- (c) Wasserman Tests. These are carried out under County Council arrangements at Manchester.

The costs of all examinations for the diphtheria bacillus are met by the Council, and of other examinations where the investigation is required for the detection or control of infectious disease.

(c) Ambulance Facilities :—

The Council maintain an ambulance with a full-time ambulance driver. There is a mutual arrangement with Alderley Edge Urban District Council for inter-availability of ambulances.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics :—

Maternity and Child Welfare :—These are maintained by the County Council. The District Medical Officer of Health is clinical medical officer to the centres by arrangement with the County Council. The centres are Alma Lane, Wilmslow, meeting every Thursday afternoon, and Wilmslow Road, Handforth, meeting on the afternoons of the second and fourth Mondays. Diphtheria immunisation is carried out at both the centres. The Handforth centre commenced during the year and has proved of great value.

School Clinic—Alma Lane, Wilmslow.

Orthopaedic Clinic—Altrincham and Alderley Edge.

Tuberculosis Dispensary—General Infirmary, Macclesfield.

Venereal Diseases Clinics—Macclesfield, Stockport, and Manchester.

(e) Nursing in the Home :—

There is no nursing service maintained by the Council, or the County Council. There are two district nursing associations for the nursing of the non-infectious sick. A voluntary help scheme has been organised by the Women's Voluntary Services.

(f) Hospitals, Public and Voluntary :—

There are no public or voluntary hospitals in the area. The public hospital for the area is West Park, Macclesfield ; the voluntary hospitals are those in Alderley Edge, Manchester, Stockport, and Macclesfield.

SECTION C :

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(a) Water Supply :—

Water is supplied by the Stockport Corporation Water Department. The supply is adequate in all parts of the district to which there are mains. The supply is constant, and there are only three houses supplied from standpipes. The nature of the water is such that it is not plumbo-solvent. The number of houses not connected to the mains is dealt with in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(b) Refuse Collection and Disposal :—

This is under the Senior Sanitary Inspector and is fully dealt with in his report. The tip, in my opinion, is in a well-kept condition.

(c) Sanitary Inspection of the Area :—

The Senior Sanitary Inspector's report for the year is given separately at the end of this report. It is, I consider, a very creditable record.

SECTION D : HOUSING :—

No special work has been carried out during the year, but there are a considerable number of houses which will be the subject of representation soon after the cessation of hostilities.

SECTION E :

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD :—

(a) Milk Supply :—

As mentioned in my report for 1942, some perturbation was felt as to the milk supply and samples were taken and advice given to the producers and dairymen. The Sanitary Inspector refers to the considerable improvement and results justify this.

	<i>Samples Taken</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
1942 ..	86	41 (48%)	15 (17%)	30 (35%)
1943 ..	108	76 (70%)	15 (14%)	17 (16%)

I would refer to the remarks in the Sanitary Inspector's report on pasteurised milk, the unsatisfactory samples of these are discouraging, as they tend to destruction of public faith, in pasteurisation, which is gradually being built up.

(b) Meat and other foods :—

No meat is now slaughtered in the district, except in case of emergency. The transfer from Stockport to Manchester has been very satisfactory.

(c) Adulteration, etc. :—

This work is undertaken by the County Council and I am indebted to the District Inspector for the following information :—

- | | | |
|------|------------------------------|--|
| 1939 | Samples taken. | |
| | Milk, 17. | None reported against. |
| | Samples other than milk, 22. | All satisfactory. |
| 1940 | Samples taken. | |
| | Milk, 16. | One reported against. Seller cautioned. |
| | Other than milk, 22. | Two reported against. Both cream cheese. Sellers cautioned. |
| 1941 | Samples taken. | |
| | Milk, 19. | Five reported against. Four were in connection with one case, prosecution and conviction. Other case seller cautioned. |
| | Other than milk, 18. | None reported against. |
| 1942 | Samples taken. | |
| | Milk, 33. | Nine reported against. Four not genuine, three cautions and one prosecution and conviction. |
| | Other than milk, 9. | None reported against. |
| 1943 | Samples taken. | |
| | Milk, 21. | Two reported against. Both one case (one sample appeal to cow). Seller cautioned. |
| | Other than milk, 16. | None reported against. |

SECTION F : PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES :—

(a) General :—

The following table gives the number of cases of each disease notified during each of the five years :—

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	15	12	10	44	56
Diphtheria	41	6	2	2	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	3	1	4	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	0	0	0	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	0	0	1	0	0
Pneumonia	8	2	5	2	9
Epidemic Meningitis ..	0	2	2	3	1
Dysentery	1	0	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	0	0	2	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	2	0	0	0
Measles	1*	53	270	95	124
Whooping Cough	1*	6	132	5	31
Total	74	84	428	152	224

* Not notifiable till October, 1939.

Diphtheria. The one case of diphtheria was an adult.

Scarlet Fever. There was an increased incidence of this disease but no defined outbreak. The character of the disease was very mild.

Influenza. In common with the rest of the country there was an epidemic during the latter part of the year ; special arrangements for help with nursing and other matters in the home were made, but there were no requests for such aid.

None of the other diseases calls for special comment.

(b) Tuberculosis :—

The following table gives the incidence of and mortality from this disease :—

	1939			1940			1941			1942			1943		
Pulmonary :—															
New Cases (<i>i.e.</i> , Pri- mary notifications, including armed forces discharges)	3	4	7	4	2	6	4	2	6	5	1	6	2	4	6
Deaths	1	2	3	5	1	6	3	1	4	2	1	3	2	1	3
Non-Pulmonary :—															
New Cases (as above)	3	0	3	2	0	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	0	1
Deaths	0	2	2	2	0	2	2	1	3	1	0	1	1	0	1

(c) Laboratory Examinations :—

Diphtheria :		1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Positive	..	2	0	0	0	1
Negative	..	60	31	47	13	29
Virulence Tests :						
Positive	..	1	0	0	0	0
Negative	..	0	0	0	0	0
Haemolytic Streptococci :						
Positive	..	0	0	2	1	2
Negative	..	0	1	0	3	4
Blood Cultures :						
Positive	..	0	0	1	0	0
Negative	..	0	0	0	1	0
Agglutination						
Positive	..	0	1	2	0	0
Negative	..	0	0	4	0	1
Faeces :						
Positive	..	0	0	1	0	0
Negative	..	0	0	3	0	0
Urine :						
Positive	..	0	0	0	0	0
Negative	..	0	0	3	0	0
Other examinations :						
Positive	..	0	0	0	0	0
Negative	..	1	0	0	0	1
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli :						
Positive	..	5	1	5	2	6
Negative	..	16	10	18	15	30

(d) Diphtheria Immunisation :—

The following table shows the progress of diphtheria immunisation in this district from 1939, when the scheme was commenced, to the end of this year. It is known that there is a very considerable number of children who have been immunised privately.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. WILMSLOW U.D.

**Persons inoculated each year
from 1939 - 1943.**

Age in years on 31st December of the corresponding year.	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	
0	1	—	2	12	1	Total inoculated aged under five years on 31st December, 1943. 422
1	12	24	64	90	74	
2	13	39	46	40	22	
3	11	39	20	30	8	
4	2	37	10	14	8	
5	11	45	26	21	3	Total inoculated aged 5—14 years on 31st December, 1943 852
6	3	47	18	11	4	
7	8	60	9	16	9	
8	5	84	3	7	2	
9	2	67	5	4	1	
10	4	75	4	5	2	
11	3	59	1	2	1	
12	1	68	5	6	1	
13	—	40	3	2	1	
14	—	7	1	—	3	
15 and over	—	—	—	1	1	Total inoculated aged 15 years and over on 31st Dec. 1943 125
Total each year	76	704	217	261	141	Grand Total 1939 - 43 1399

(In calculating the totals at the end of 1943 no account is taken
of deaths which may have occurred since immunisation).

(e) **Active Immunisation against other Diseases :—**

Enteric Group. This is not normally carried out but a number of C.D. personnel were thus immunised in 1941.

Scarlet Fever. Enquiries regarding this have been received. It is not my policy to recommend it, but to refer enquirers to their own practitioners.

Measles. Placental globulins are available for practitioners but no requests have been received.

Whooping Cough. A large number of enquiries were received regarding immunisation against this disease, and a small number received injections, the parents providing the vaccine. The number is too small to be of any value in assessment of results. Recent publications show that the efficacy of the method is doubtful and it was decided, therefore, to cease this practice and to advise enquirers that it was still experimental but that so far as the individual child was concerned they could make their own choice and have the child immunised privately if they so desired. If new methods that are, I understand, being tried out, prove more successful, the matter will be brought before the Council, as was the intention if the initial cases had been successful and could be worked with the diphtheria immunisation.

SECTION G : PROVISION OF INSULIN :—

During the year the Council decided on the provision of insulin either free or at an assisted rate for certain persons who were in need of this assistance and could not obtain it through other channels. The scale of income agreed upon was, income of applicant up to £260 per annum free, £260 to £420 per annum half cost. Other cases will be considered on their merits.

WILMSLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,

Green Hall,

Wilmslow.

September, 1944.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Evans and Gentlemen,

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1943

I have the honour to present my report on the work of your Sanitary Inspectors for the year 1943.

The following table shows that 2,283 visits were made to houses and other premises in connection with a variety of matters relating to Public Health.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

<i>Nature of Inspections</i>	<i>No. of Inspections</i>
Housing :—	
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts ..	241
Re-inspections under Public Health Acts ..	527
Houses inspected under Housing Act	193
Re-inspections under Housing Act	33
General :—	
Refuse Collection and Disposal	215
Infectious Disease	58
Water Supply	92
Smoke observations	6
Factories and Workplaces	12
Shop Acts	2
Petroleum Acts	36
Special visits	303

<i>Nature of Inspections</i>	<i>No. of Inspections</i>
Meat and Food Inspection :—	
Slaughterhouses	43
Butchers' Shops and Stalls	71
Wet Fish Shops	17
Fried Fish Shops	6
Other Food Shops	95
Bakehouses	53
Restaurants' Kitchens	9
Dairies and Milk Shops	136
Cowsheds	135
	<hr/>
	2,283

COMPLAINTS

One hundred and nine complaints were received with reference to the following matters, viz. :—

Defective Conditions	45
Choked Drains	20
Accumulations of Refuse	5
Defective Dustbins	8
Smoke Nuisances	2
Rat Infestations	2
Verminous Premises	6
Sanitary Accommodation	1
Overcrowded Conditions	3
Unsound Food	9
Sour Milk	8
	<hr/>
	109

NOTICES SERVED

Arising out of the above inspections, the following Notices were served :—

<i>Statute</i>	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Statutory</i>
Public Health Act, 1936	62	3
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	55	Nil
Housing Act, 1936	36	Nil
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	153	3

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Legal proceedings were taken in one instance only where the owner failed to comply with an Abatement Notice under the

Public Health Act, 1936, requiring him to remedy the nuisance caused by defective roofs. The Magistrates made an Order calling upon the owner to comply with the notice, which he eventually fulfilled.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Disinfection after Infectious Disease

Fifty-eight visits were made in connection with cases of infectious disease, and the necessary investigations were made in order to furnish the Medical Officer of Health with the detailed information he required. The number of premises disinfected after infectious disease was 35.

Disinfestation

Two premises only were disinfested on account of verminous conditions.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The numbers of sanitary conveniences (other than water closets) which are still in use in the district have been included in this report, in order that the Council may know the extent of the work to be carried out in order to convert all premises to the water carriage system. In the areas where there is no sewer available the sanitary accommodation consists either of an earth closet (pail) or privy (wet ashpit) in the case of small cottage property, farms and other old properties, but the newly built and larger houses are mostly served by cesspools or septic tanks.

The following table shows the number of earth closets and privies (in Wards) which are still in use, and which are cleansed regularly by the Council. All pails are emptied weekly and privies every two or three months.

Closet accommodation (other than W.C.'s) :

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Earth Closets</i>		<i>Privies</i>	
	<i>No. of Closets</i>	<i>No. of Premises</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>No. of Premises</i>
Dean Row ..	15	12	11	15
Fulshaw ..	2	2	21	25
Handforth ..	1	1	28	34
Hough ..	9	9	8	8
Morley ..	88	83	20	31
Styal ..	131	118	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	246	225	89	114

The majority of the conveniences are situated in the Styal and Morley Wards, the reason for which is the absence of a sewer in these districts. There are also a number of houses where conversions have not been carried out because it is anticipated that the properties will be dealt with as unfit for habitation when hostilities cease. It is not possible to make any substantial reduction in the above figures until such time as the districts concerned are sewered.

HOUSING

Another year of war has made it impossible to proceed with Housing Inspections to any great extent. These inspections, which in normal times are made to ascertain the housing conditions of the district as regards disrepair and unfitness, will be recommenced in accordance with the Housing Consolidated Regulations as soon as it is possible to revert to peace-time procedure of dealing with unfit and insanitary houses. Activities in connection with housing were confined to the investigation into the conditions under which applicants for Council Houses were living, with a view to the Council being in a position to offer any available accommodation to the most necessitous cases. The number of investigations was 167, from which a detailed list showing the number of :—

- (a) Houses containing two or more families ;
- (b) Families with insufficient accommodation ; and
- (c) Houses unfit for habitation ;

was submitted to the Sub-Committee set up to prepare a Short List for Council Houses.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Meat. As in the previous year the meat supply for this district continues to come from the Manchester Abattoirs, and I am pleased to report that no complaints have been received from the public or the butchers with regard to its quality. Owing to the control exercised by the Government, slaughtering only takes place in this district in the event of an emergency, when it is necessary that an animal should be slaughtered immediately in cases where an accident or illness occurs, and the animal cannot be moved. The only other slaughtering which is permitted is in the case of farmers and pig keepers

who are allowed to kill two pigs each year for their own consumption. In these cases a permit must be obtained from the Local Food Office, who stipulate that notice of slaughter must be sent to this Department.

The total number of carcasses of animals inspected after slaughter and the number found to be effected with tuberculosis are as follows :—

				<i>No. examined</i>	<i>Found to be Tubercular</i>
Cattle	..	..	..	1	Nil
Calves	..	..	..	1	Nil
Pigs	..	..	..	66	10
				<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	..	..	..	68	10

The following is a list of diseased or unsound meat which was detected by your Inspectors and subsequently destroyed :—

				<i>No.</i>	<i>Weight lbs.</i>
Whole Carcasses (Pig)	..	..	..	1	160
Heads	..	..	..	9	135
Plucks	..	..	..	5	36
Hearts	..	..	..	1	1
Mesenteries	..	..	..	5	12
Spleen	..	..	..	1	2
Lungs	..	..	..	1	4
Beast's Head and Tongue	..			1	33
					<hr/>
					383

Other Foods. Periodical routine visits were made during the year to premises where food is sold, stored or prepared for human consumption, such as butchers' shops, grocers, fish shops, restaurant kitchens, etc. Arising out of these visits 4,039 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. of various foodstuffs, including 808 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. of tinned food, a detailed list of which is given below, were condemned as unfit for human consumption. In many instances, the food, although unfit for human beings, was considered suitable for feeding pigs and arrangements were made to make use of the food in this manner wherever possible.

Other Foods Condemned

							<i>lbs.</i>
Bacon	..	..	..	..	..	..	87½
Meat	..	..	..	..	..	..	52½
Fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,271
Vegetables		..	..	..	..	..	566
Suet	..	..	..	..	..	..	26½
Flour	..	..	..	..	..	..	723
Chocolate		..	..	..	..	..	45½
Raisins	..	..	..	..	..	..	45
Dried Eggs	..	..	..	..	..	..	21¼
Oats, Oatmeal and Cereals			..	..	..	..	59
Margarine		..	..	..	..	..	49¼
Cheese	..	..	..	..	..	..	38
Cake	..	..	..	..	..	..	180
Fruit	..	..	..	..	..	..	50½
Bread	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Lard	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Pudding Mixture		..	..	..	..	..	9
Salt	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Baking Powder		..	..	..	..	..	3
Hot Pot	..	..	..	..	..	..	3½
							<hr/>
							3,284½ lbs.

Tinned Goods Condemned

							<i>lbs.</i>
Meat	..	..	..	..	..	..	170 $\frac{3}{4}$
Fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Fruit	..	..	..	..	..	..	466 $\frac{1}{4}$
Vegetables		..	..	..	..	..	69 $\frac{1}{4}$
Soups	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	30 $\frac{1}{2}$
Jam and Marmalade			..	..	..	..	15
Mustard	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Pickles	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
							<hr/>
							808 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

MILK SUPPLY

The number of Cow-keepers and Dairymen on the register at the end of 1943 was as follows :—

Cow-keepers	..	..	...	..	67
Dairymen	..	..	..	..	11
Retailers from outside districts	..	..			5

Among the cow-keepers there are 40 farms from which the milk is sold wholesale and 27 where the producer retails his milk.

A great deal of publicity was given to, and much criticism levelled at, the milk supply of the nation as a whole during the year, which tended to give one the impression that the nation's milk supply was completely unsatisfactory as regards its cleanliness and keeping qualities.

As far as Wilmslow is concerned only eight complaints of sour or dirty milk were reported during 1943, which, bearing in mind the number of producers and retailers in the district, is not particularly high.

In order to ascertain the standard of milk being produced locally, milk from all the farms and dairies was sampled at least once and in each case where the result was unsatisfactory the farmer was advised and requested to take steps to improve the cleanliness of his milk. Subsequent samples usually proved that a considerable improvement had been obtained.

Two hundred and seventy-one visits were made to farms and dairies in order to carry out this work. Reference to the following table shows that 108 samples were submitted for examination for bacterial count and the presence of *B. Coili* irrespective of the grade of milk being produced. A total of 17 samples were found to be "dirty" milks. If the conditions under which the farmer is working at the present time are taken into consideration, together with other restrictions placed upon the milk industry, it is maintained that these results may be considered to be satisfactory.

Examination of Milk for Bacterial Count and *B. Coili*.

Designation	No. of Sample Taken			Classification		
	From Farms	From Dairies	Total	Good	Fair	Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested	.. 2	—	2	2	—	—
Accredited	.. 42	5	47	29	8	10
Ungraded	.. 53	6	59	45	7	7
Total	.. 97	11	108	76	15	17

Water Supply at Dairy Farms

A pure and sufficient water supply is an essential feature of all dairy farms, both for the watering of animals and for the proper cleansing of buildings, utensils, etc. It is interesting to note that of the 67 dairy farms in the area 53 have a main supply of water, and 14 are dependent upon well water. Of the farms with a main supply, 29 premises have automatic drinking bowls fitted in the shippons from which a pure supply of water for the cattle can always be obtained. The number of farms still using well water which has been certified as unfit for drinking purposes, and included in the premises dealt with under the heading Water Supplies, is 6.

The Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938

The special grades of milk to which the above Orders apply are Tuberculin Tested, including Tuberculin Tested (Certified), Accredited and Pasteurised. The Licensing Authority for the farms at which Tuberculin Tested and Accredited Milks are produced is the Cheshire County Council. An Urban District Council is responsible only for Bottling Establishments not on the farms, and shops and dairies at which T.T. or Accredited milk is sold but not produced, together with all pasteurising establishments. The number of farms licenced by the County Council to produce one of the above special grades of milk is as follows :—

Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	1
Accredited	..	..	..	..	31

There are, therefore, still 35 farms producing ungraded milk.

The number of licences issued by this Council in 1943 is as follows :—

Dealer's Licence to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk	..	3
„ „ bottle „ „	..	1
„ „ sell Pasteurised Milk	..	1
Supplementary Licence to sell Pasteurised Milk	..	1

Pasteurised Milk

Pasteurisation is the only form of heat treatment for which the method of treating the milk and the standard with which it must comply is laid down by the Government. Prior to July, 1941, pasteurisation meant raising the temperature of the milk

to between 145° and 150° F., holding it at that temperature for at least 30 minutes and immediately cooling to not more than 45° F., but because this method took a long time and required a considerable amount of equipment, another method known as High Temperature Short Time Pasteurisation was introduced by the Ministry of Health as an Emergency Measure, and Local Authorities were empowered to grant pasteurisation licences in respect of this process. By the new method the milk is raised to a temperature of not less than 162° F. and held at that temperature for fifteen seconds only, when it is immediately cooled. The object of pasteurisation is to raise the temperature of milk sufficiently to kill any disease-producing organisms, and thus render the milk perfectly safe for consumption. In addition it has the effect of prolonging the life of the milk by also destroying some of the bacteria which cause souring. The chances of reinfection of the milk, after pasteurisation, by tubercle bacilli or other pathogenic organisms, is extremely slight. There are no pasteurising plants established in the area, but two firms whose plant is situate outside the area are licensed to sell within the Urban District. Towards the end of the year, a High Temperature Short Time pasteurisation plant was being installed at a local dairy, and it is expected that it will be ready for use at the beginning of 1944. During the year 8 samples were examined to ascertain whether they complied with the bacteriological standard laid down by the Order and 10 samples were submitted to the Phosphatase Test, which is carried out to ascertain whether the milk has been efficiently heat treated, but up to the present time this test has no legal standing.

The following table shows the results of the above-mentioned examination :—

	<i>No. Taken</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Bacterial Count (not to exceed 100,000 bacteria per c.c. . .	8	5	3
Phosphatase Test . . .	10	8	2

EXAMINATION OF MILK FOR TUBERCULOSIS

As tuberculosis is fairly prevalent amongst the dairy cattle of this country, it was considered very desirable to submit samples of milk for examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli from the various dairy herds within the district. A total of 54 such samples were submitted for examination and in two cases a positive result was obtained. The farms at

which the milk was produced were immediately reported to the County Medical Officer of Health, who caused the animals to be individually examined and tested until the cows giving the tubercular milk had been isolated. The cows were then removed from the herd and slaughtered.

Summary of Samples examined for Tuberculosis

<i>Designation</i>	<i>No. of Samples Taken</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>
Tuberculin Tested	.. 1	Nil	1
Accredited .. ..	.. 14	Nil	14
Ungraded .. ..	.. 39	2	37
	—	—	—
Totals .. ..	.. 54	2	52

It is worth noting that the two positive cases were found among non-designated herds.

WATER SUPPLIES

During the year a special investigation was made into the existing sources of water supplies to all premises not served by the Stockport Corporation, and a Sub-Committee was set up to consider the possibility of providing a main supply of water to every house in the district. A survey of the district was made, from which the following information was ascertained :—

	(a) <i>Main Supply available</i>	(b) <i>No Main available</i>
Number of houses not provided with main water supply	33	40
Number of houses where wells or springs are used for drinking pur- poses	33	30
Number of houses where water is carried from other sources ..	—	10
Number of above wells giving water unfit for drinking purposes or border-line quality	10	21

The above figures are compiled chiefly from reports of analyses of samples taken towards the end of 1942, when an investigation into all wells was carried out for the purpose of ascertaining the quality of the water available in the district for use for domestic purposes in the event of the mains being damaged by enemy action.

During 1943 five samples of water only were submitted for examination and all were found to be unsuitable for drinking purposes.

From the above table it will be seen that there are 73 houses or other premises in the whole of the area not connected to a main supply, which is a small percentage for a district of over 5,000 premises, which is largely rural in character.

Of the 73 premises there are 33 where the main is not a great distance away, but the owners have not yet taken advantage of the service which in some cases is due to the difficulty of getting work done: In fact, there are instances where orders for certain premises to be connected to the main have been given and these will be complied with as early as possible. In 40 cases, however, there is no main within a reasonable distance, and some of these premises are situated in remote places in different parts of the district, and the expense of providing a main would be considerable when compared with the number of properties to be supplied. It is, however, essential that a sufficient and suitable supply of water should be provided as soon as it is possible to do so, to every house within the area. At the present time these properties are obtaining their supply of water mainly from wells, many of which are unsatisfactory for drinking purposes, and in ten cases water has to be carried for a considerable distance from other sources. In all cases where water is being drawn from wells giving water not fit for domestic purposes, the occupants have been warned to boil all water before it is consumed.

During 1943, in spite of the difficulty of getting new mains and services laid, seven premises were connected to the main as the result of representations made to owners by the Department.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Collection

A fortnightly collection of house refuse and salvage was maintained throughout the year.

Two S.D. Freighters owned by the Council with Trailers attached are used for this work.

Hired haulage is employed for the weekly collection of pails from houses and military billets, for the periodical emptying of ashpits, and for special work such as the weekly paper collection from business premises, etc. A motor lorry would be extremely useful to the Department for the work now performed by private firms, but until the labour market improves I fear the matter cannot be considered.

Disposal

House refuse is disposed of by tipping on land in Newgate, where the Council own $38\frac{1}{2}$ acres of peatland. Pail contents are disposed of either through market gardeners for manurial purposes or at one of the sewage works. A small destructor, installed at the Southern Sewage Works for dealing with condemned meat, fish offal and other offensive trade waste, continues to operate, although due to the shortage of supplies the destructor is now only working two days per week.

Staff

The number of men employed in the Department on the average is 16, 11 of whom are engaged in collection on the freighters, 4 at the refuse tip and 1 on special collections. Difficulty has been experienced from time to time in finding sufficient labour to maintain the service at this present standard, and I am indebted to the Surveyor (Mr. A. A. Hamilton) for loaning men from his department whenever it has been necessary on account of sickness, holidays, etc.

Salvage

It is customary to present a separate annual report giving details of the Salvage Scheme, which I do not propose to repeat here. The reclamation of waste materials, however, places additional work on the whole staff of the Department, and I propose, therefore, to refer briefly to the results of their labours in this direction.

During the year 282 tons of materials were separated and sold, the principal items being 159 tons paper, 64 tons metals, 16 tons textiles, 11 tons glassware, 7 tons bones, 20 tons kitchen waste. These materials brought in a sum of £1,659, and it is estimated that the additional expenditure incurred in working the scheme amounted to £946.

STAFF

There were no changes in the Sanitary Staff during the year.

It is with much pleasure that I take this opportunity to express my appreciation of the help given by Mr. Brunskill and Mrs. Palmer, and to acknowledge the kind co-operation of Dr. Anderson and my colleagues in other Departments.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

G. H. LANCASTER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector

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